

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT A 03099 281810Z  
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 HA-02 L-01 NSCE-00 SP-02  
INR-05 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 PA-01 ICA-01 INRE-00 SSO-00  
/037 W

-----129725 281821Z /46

O 281750Z JUL 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9127

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT AU PRINCE 3099

LIMDIS

FOR ARA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM HA  
SUBJ: UPDATE OF HUMAN RIGHTS EXPECTATIONS FOR HAITI

REF: STATE 185415

I. INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON

A. SHORT TERM: VISIT OF IAHR

VISIT OF IAHR CURRENTLY SCHEDULED FOR LATE AUGUST. GOH NOW  
MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR VISIT (SEE BELOW). THESE PREPARATIONS  
AND RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY IAHR AFTER THE VISIT CAN BE EXPECTED  
TO HAVE GENERALLY BENEFICIAL EFFECT ON CONDITIONS PERTAINING  
TO INTEGRITY OF THE PERSON IN AND OUT OF PRISON. EACH STEP  
TAKEN BY THE GOH HAS IN THE PAST ALWAYS PROVIDED AN INCENTIVE TO  
THE GOH FOR FURTHER PROGRESS AS WELL AS A USEFUL TALKING POINT  
FOR THE MISSION WITH THE GOH. ON THE BASIS OF THE IAHR VISIT,  
WE WOULD PRESS FOR A VISIT BY THE ICRC, PERHAPS IN EARLY 1979.

B. SHORT TO MEDIUM TERM: APPLICATION OF ARTICLE 17 OF THE  
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PAGE 02 PORT A 03099 281810Z

CONSTITUTION.

THE WEEK OF 17 JULY, JUSTICE MINISTER FIEVRE CONVENED JUDGES  
OF PORT-AU-PRINCE TO INFORM THEM THAT THEY SHOULD ENFORCE ARTICLE  
17. ARTICLE 17 PRESCRIBES THAT NO ONE SHOULD BE ARRESTED WITHOUT  
CAUSE, AND THAT THOSE ARRESTED SHOULD BE BROUGHT BEFORE JUDGE  
WITHIN 48 HOURS OF ARREST TO CONFIRM LEGALITY OF THEIR ARREST.

MEETING WAS GIVEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY, ADMITS IN EFFECT THAT PROCEDURE HAD NOT BEEN FOLLOWED IN THE PAST AND PUT JUDICIAL SYSTEM AND THE PUBLIC ON NOTICE THAT ARTICLE 17 SHOULD BE APPLIED IN THE FUTURE. ANNOUNCEMENT UNQUESTIONABLY LINKED TO FORTHCOMING IAHRC VISIT. BECAUSE OF THE ARREST OF SOME PERSONS FOR SECURITY REASONS (IN WHICH THE MILITARY HAVE A PARTICULAR INTEREST), WE DOUBT JUSTICE WILL IMPLEMENT SYSTEM AUTOMATICALLY OR RIGHT AWAY. NEVERTHELESS JUSTICE MINISTRY MEETING HAS PROVIDED IMPORTANT IMPETUS THAT HAITIANS, WE AND OTHER INTERESTED OBSERVERS SUCH AS IAHRC WILL FOLLOW UP.

## II. CIVIL AND POLITICAL LIBERTIES

### A. SHORT TERM: FREEDOM OF THE PRESS (PRESS, TV, RADIO)

ALTHOUGH BEATING OF PASTOR NEREE IN DECEMBER 1977 HAS ENDED FRONTAL ASSAULTS ON GOVERNMENT, FREEDOM OF PRESS HAS STEADILY STRENGTHENED. MEDIA HAS CREATED INCREASINGLY LARGER ROLE FOR ITSELF IN COMMENTING ON EVENTS INCLUDING PERFORMANCE AND ABUSES OF ELEMENTS OF THE GOVERNMENT. ROLE IS NOT UNCHALLENGED BY THE GOH, BUT IS GRADUALLY BEING ACKNOWLEDGED AS TOLERABLE AND PERHAPS, WITHIN BOUNDS, EVEN NECESSARY FOR MODERN HAITI. DEVELOPMENT OF PRESS ROLE IS LONG TERM EVENT THAT CAN BENEFIT FROM CONTINUED ENCOURAGEMENT. IN SHORT TERM, HAITIAN MEDIA PARTICIPATION IN FORTHCOMING DOMINICAN INAUGURATION WILL FURTHER ENHANCE PRESS ROLE. PARTICIPATION IN OCTOBER IAPA CONFERENCE IN CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PORT A 03099 281810Z

MIAMI WILL PROVIDE IMPORTANT OPPORTUNITY TO FOLLOW UP ON IAPA VISIT TO AND REPORT ON HAITI IN EARLY 1978. EMBASSY IS ENCOURAGING PARTICIPATION.

### B. LONG TERM: GRASS ROOTS DEMOCRACY.

GOH WILL BE HOLDING ELECTIONS FOR THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY IN EARLY 1979. THESE ELECTIONS MAY TAKE ON INCREASINGLY DEMOCRATIC APPEARANCE BUT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE CONTESTED, AND IN THE ABSENCE OF EFFECTIVE INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT THROUGH EDUCATION, PARTICIPATION, ETC. WOULD NOT BE VERY DEMOCRATIC EVEN IF CONTESTED. BASIS FOR GROWTH OF GENUINE DEMOCRATIC PRACTICES IS INVOLVEMENT OF THE PEOPLE IN GOVERNMENT AND DEVELOPMENT PROCESS THROUGH DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS. DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AS EFFECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENT INSTRUMENT IS GOAL OF AID AND SEVERAL OTHER DONORS, PARTICULARLY IN POPULOUS AND NEGLECTED RURAL AREAS, AND MANY ACTIVITIES ARE ALREADY UNDERWAY. GOH SO FAR IS COOPERATING IN DEVELOPMENT PLANS. AID HOPES TO HAVE MAJOR NEW COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OF NATIONAL SCOPE UNDERWAY DURING NEXT 18 MONTHS.

III. BASIC HUMAN NEEDS

A. SHORT TERM: FISCAL REFORM

AT THE JOINT COMMISSION MEETING IN EARLY JULY, THE GOH AGREED WITH SWEEPING IMF FISCAL REFORM PROPOSALS, INCLUDING FISCALIZATION OF ALL SPECIAL ACCOUNTS BEGINNING OCTOBER 1978 (NEXT FISCAL YEAR). WE WILL CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS FISCAL REFORM PACKAGE ALONG WITH THE OTHER INTERESTED DONORS, IN CONNECTION WITH OUR CURRENT TITLE III, PL480 NEGOTIATIONS.

B. MEDIUM TERM: OTHER GOVERNMENTAL REFORMS PERTAINING TO DEVELOPMENT.

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PAGE 04 PORT A 03099 281810Z

WE HAVE PROPOSED A REFORM PACKAGE TO THE GOH INCLUDING THE FISCAL REFORMS REFERRED TO ABOVE DESIGNED TO INCREASE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES MOST INVOLVED IN DEVELOPMENT IN EXCHANGE FOR TITLE III PL480 ASSISTANCE. AS THE GOH HAS NOW IN EFFECT ACCEDED TO THE MOST IMPORTANT REFORM ELEMENT--THE FISCAL REFORMS--IN ITS AGREEMENT WITH THE IMF, WE SHOULD BE ABLE TO COME TO AN AGREEMENT ON THE BALANCE OF THE REFORM PROPOSALS IN THE NEXT SEVERAL MONTHS. THE GOVERNMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF THE FISCAL REFORM PACKAGE TOGETHER WITH ITS RECOGNITION OF BOTH THE MATERIAL AND SYMBOLIC IMPORTANCE OF THE TITLE III AGREEMENT WITH THE U.S. ENHANCES THE PROSPECTS FOR THE COMPLETION OF A SATISFACTORY NEGOTIATION. EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE TITLE III/IMF PROGRAM WOULD RESULT IN A SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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